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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 21, 2020

Free Childhood Immunization Clinic to be Held in Idaho Falls on June 4

Contact: Mimi Taylor, PIO Office: (208) 533-3155

(Eastern Idaho) - Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH) will be holding a <u>FREE</u> (no out-of-pocket cost) immunization clinic on Thursday, June 4, 2020 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at 1250 Hollipark Dive in Idaho Falls. The free immunization clinic is open to all children ages 18 years and younger who are in need of immunizations. Childhood vaccinations plummeted in mid-March after COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, leaving many children vulnerable to vaccine preventable diseases, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report. The American Academy of Pediatrics has urged healthcare providers to schedule visits and clinics to catch up on childhood immunizations.

"EIPH is very aware of parental fears and concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and we can assure them we are taking the utmost of precautions to keep them and their families safe not just during this immunization clinic but across all the services we provide at our facility", said Geri Rackow, EIPH Director. The specific precautions for this clinic include:

- Screening for illness using a symptom questionnaire and temperature taking with a no-touch thermometer.
- Wearing cloth face coverings or masks (with the exception of infants to 2 year olds). Face coverings will be provided if the participant does not bring their own.
- Meeting the families outside for paperwork and checking in to avoid excessive congestion in the lobby. We will only be allowing one adult to accompany the child(en) into the clinic.
- Cleaning and sanitizing the vaccination room after each participant plus sanitizing high touch areas of the building throughout the clinic.
- Having plentiful supplies of anti-bacterial available in the building and adhering to strict social distancing protocols throughout the process.
- Providing services by appointment only. No walk-in appointments will be allowed. For the safety
 of everyone involved, please call ahead to schedule your appointment.

Please note: Foreign travel immunizations are not included in the free clinic. We will be billing insurance and Medicaid. However, there will be no out-of-pocket expense for participants. Please bring your immunization card with you to the clinic.

Clinic Details:

What: Free Immunization Clinic Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 Time: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Place: Eastern Idaho Public Health, 1250 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls

Who: All children ages 18 years and younger in need of immunizations

Appointments: Appointments are required. | Call (208) 533-3235 to schedule.

Opportunities for interviews with EIPH Immunization staff will be by appointment only. All members of the media are expected to follow the guidelines listed above. If interested, please contact Mimi Taylor, PIO, to schedule an interview. Mimi can be reached by phone at (208) 533-3155 or by email at mimi_taylor@eiph.idaho.gov.